

Minutes

Meeting, Department of History

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

3:15 p.m. Stalker Hall 105

Present: Mr. Olsen, Mr. Clark (arrived late), Ms. Chirhart, Mr. Hawkins, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Giffin, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Schneirov, Ms. Skinner, Mr. Stofferahn

Absent: Ms. Foster, Mr. Land

Approval: The January 20, 2010 Department minutes were approved by a unanimous vote (11-0-0).

Announcements

1. Mr. Schneirov announced that the AAUP will meet at University of Indianapolis on April 10, and that the speaker will be the Indiana Commissioner of Higher Education.
2. Mr. Stofferahn announced that (1) the Phi Alpha Theta Initiation ceremony will be held on April 14th in Normal Hall, and (2) students will be presenting papers at an upcoming conference in Evansville.
3. Mr. Fischer expressed gratitude to Mr. Stofferahn for his work in researching images for the DOH website.
4. Mr. Olsen announced that (1) the Graduate Students' conference will be held on March 27th at Eastern Illinois University; (2) the State Legislature has passed a law requiring all universities in Indiana to accept AP scores of three on all subjects outside of those in the major; and (3) Dean Sauer will propose that Mr. Olsen's stipend as Chairperson be increased as the administrative combination of AFRI and History is completed (if approved, this will be a decrease from the separate amounts currently assigned as chairperson of History and interim chairperson of African and African American Studies).
5. Mr. Hunter announced that Mr. Schneirov had received a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship for Germany.

Committee Reports

African and African-American Studies: Mr. Olsen stated that the website had been updated and the number of affiliated faculty increased (the curriculum had also been updated "a bit.")

Assessment (Nichols): No formal report. Mr. Nichols announced that committee members will meet in several weeks to discuss and decide student awards. Mr. Olsen reported that we have a full Spann award this year.

Budget (Chirhart): No formal report. Mr. Olsen stated that our faculty travel allocation is unchanged and that, according to Dean Sauer, faculty travel remains exempt, for now, from budget cuts.

Curriculum (Fischer): No formal report. Mr. Fischer urged faculty members to send him their profiles (only three have been received), and stated that Mr. Land has offered to generate a Qualtrics alumni survey for us.

Graduate (Chirhart): No formal report. Ms. Chirhart stated that she will circulate to DOH faculty the guidelines once again. Mr. Olsen reported that the DOH has three new graduate students this spring, and that four students have been admitted for fall semester.

Retention/Tenure (Giffin): No formal report. Mr. Olsen stated that the P/T statement must be revised by May 1 in order to incorporate wording on Community Engagement and Experiential Learning. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Skinner reported that the Faculty Affairs Council had approved a statement and she promised to send a copy of it to the R/T Committee. Mr. Olsen observed that the bottom line is to make sure that whatever is adopted not form a separate category but rather be part of research, teaching, or service.

Old business

Update on Foundational Studies Revisions. Mr. Olsen reported that he had met with Ms. Maule and that History has some revisions to complete on its five proposed upper-division integrative courses. The FSC wants only mild revisions to them. He also stated that History must have a person to sit on the FSC next year. Mr. Fischer offered that he had submitted his name.

Fall 2010 Schedule. "A mess," said Mr. Olsen. Schedule opens to students for registration on 29 March. He will not add another section (no one is going up to four classes). Mr. Olsen reported that the Chairs' Council had met and that money will be needed to make Basic Studies function. Dean Sauer intends to ask for early retirement money in order to cover this. No one, he said, mentioned teaching outside one's discipline or adding a fourth class. It appears that the Upper Administration has backed out of a 4-4 load and out-of-discipline instruction. Mr. Olsen added that the UA must make a decision in a week about sabbaticals, which the CC has requested be reconsidered, and stated that full-year sabbaticals would have generated \$130,000 for the administration.

Questions and discussion followed. Mr. Schenirov: Any consideration of cuts in IT? Mr. Olsen: IT has taken a large % cut in the recent firing of about 90 people on campus. He added that reports are that ISU intends to eliminate its subsidy of the football program in five years. Ms. Skinner stated that faculty members had already applied for grants and if sabbaticals are cut, this would be punitive. Mr. Schenirov: If the administration will not support sabbaticals, is there a way that we can create them within the department by using course load reductions? Mr. Olsen: People can apply for reduced loads down to one course, but cautioned that

reductions always weaken our cases for adjunct funding and replacement, or new, tenure-track positions.

New Business

College Challenge. Mr. Olsen reported as follows. If the DOH intends to participate in the CC program, it needs to appoint a lead faculty member to supervise all of the high school teachers who offer U.S. History. Duties include site visits to CC teachers, participation in annual development events, and potentially additional duties. It will be a lot of work. Many high schools all over the state will be doing this, with potentially dozens of places to be visited. As compensation, the faculty member receives \$1,500 + \$125.00 for each site visit, and reimbursement for mileage. A one-course reduction for the lead person had been rejected. The larger context is that the legislature has come up with a new list of dual credit courses in Indiana. If this works the way the legislature intends, the Gen. Ed. Requirement in History will be undermined greatly. In Mr. Olsen's opinion, this move is part of the legislature's intention to reduce the general education programs at universities and make it "easier" for students to graduate in four years. This means satisfying more and more university requirements in high schools -- a race to the bottom.

After the initial shock but without awe, many questions were posed and a lively discussion ensued. Every faculty member spoke. The following illustrates the tone and substance of the discussion. Mr. Schneirov suggested that one way around this might be to increase requirements for Historical Studies, or make a case for more specific requirements (e.g., Indiana history). Mr. Hawkins saw no advantage in participating in this. Mr. Stofferahn asked what would happen if we refused to do this. Mr. Olsen answered that we could opt out but the President and Provost were pushing hard for this because they think this will increase enrollments by helping recruitment. In theory, we could use it to recruit HS teachers into the graduate program inasmuch as HS teachers who will be accredited will be required to enroll in a graduate program. Mr. Schneirov asked whether or not we could assign this to 3-4 people to share the burden. Mr. Olsen replied that he would suggest this, and that this could be handled through our CC. Mr. Stofferahn stated that Ivy Tech campuses should be doing this. Mr. Olsen replied that IT is pulling out of some of this and added that if we pull out of dual credit courses as a university, we will lose to USI and Ball State. Mr. Giffin suggested that we use this to increase the number of our graduate students. Ms Skinner suggested we use this to raise standards, but Mr. Olsen replied that everyone across the state would need to have the same approach. Toward the end of the discussion, Mr. Olsen emphasized that options existed. We could develop our own examination and enforce it, and so make it the equivalent of an AP exam – something already discussed at the state level. In any case, he felt that DOH needs to accept responsibility for management and oversight in the short term, in order to have some impact upon the way this all plays out in the long term. This would buy time for us to work out a long-term strategy.

Meeting adjourned: 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hunter